

Memorandum for: Record

Subject: Turkey's Role in Western Security

Attached is the package on Turkey that we discussed last Thursday. It contains a copy of the key points we believe should be made regarding Turkey's role in western security and is supported by some maps and charts. We have included 23 copies of the graphics to enable you to pass out 20 and have some for your own use. I trust you will find the package useful. Let us know if we can be of any further assistance.

EUR M 84-10132

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**Office of European Analysis
Directorate of Intelligence**

EURM 84-10132

Turkey's Role in Western Security

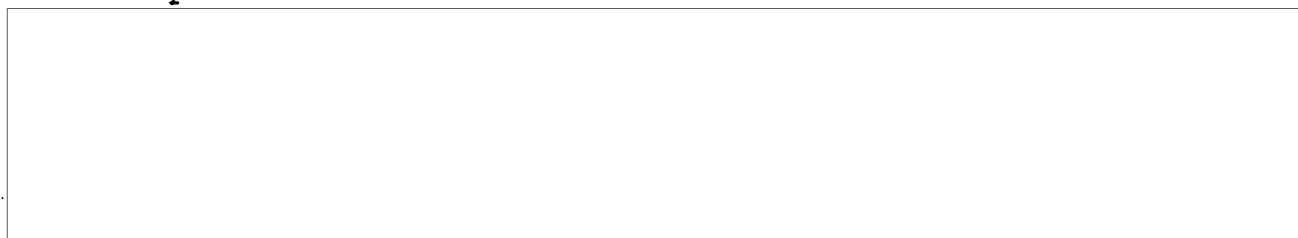
KEY ALLY

Turkey is the southeastern anchor of NATO.

- Turkey controls the vital Turkish Straits and protects territory adjoining potential Soviet lines of advance into the Persian Gulf and the Middle East.
- The Turkish Armed Forces--totalling about 790,000 men--are the largest standing Allied force.

Turkey's responses to NATO's Defense Planning Committee indicate support for the Long Term Defense Plan.

- Turkey, with US assistance, is modernizing or constructing twelve airfields to improve NATO's combat capabilities there.



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- Turkey has devoted about five percent of its GDP to defense since 1978, and defense spending over the same period has averaged almost 20 percent of the national budget (charts attached).

BRIDGE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

As the land bridge between Europe and Asia, Turkey is an important link between the NATO Alliance and the Islamic world.

- It borders on the Soviet Union, Iran, Iraq, and Syria in Asia; and Bulgaria and Greece in Europe.
- It controls vital land trade routes of both Iran and Iraq--including the pipeline which is presently the only outlet for Iraqi oil exports (map attached).

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Both President Evren and Prime Minister Ozal want Turkey to strengthen its role as a "Bridge between East and West."

- Apart from Egypt, Turkey is the only Islamic country to maintain formal ties with Israel.
- Turkey is making a major effort to find markets and strengthen its political influence in the Muslim world.

Turkey has sought to play a stabilizing role in the Persian Gulf area.

- It has remained neutral in the Iran-Iraq war, trades with both countries, and has offered to help mediate a settlement.
- Nonetheless, it is prepared to defend its vital interests by all means--including military force--against threats from either Teheran or Baghdad.
- It also could facilitate US deployments to the Gulf region. [redacted]

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FORCE REQUIREMENTS AND WEAKNESSES

Turkish forces are hampered by obsolete or inoperable equipment. The poorest member of the Alliance, Turkey cannot meet its force modernization goals with its own resources.

- NATO Commander General Rogers has assessed Turkey's capabilities as unsatisfactory because of obsolescence or lack of spare parts. (Chart attached.)
- Obsolete equipment not only reduces combat effectiveness, but increases operations and maintenance costs.
- All major Turkish modernization efforts are being undertaken with outside assistance. (See chart attached.) [redacted]

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THE THREATS TO TURKEY

Turkey faces threats of varying gravity on all its borders.

- The primary military threat is from the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact (map attached).

- Early seizure of the Straits, would be important to the Soviets in an attack on Europe.
- The Pact would probably use at least 12 divisions plus amphibious assault elements to destroy Turkish forces in Thrace, hold off the Greeks, break through land fortifications and sieze the Straits. [REDACTED]

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The Turks are concerned about Syrian intentions in the Middle East.

- Turkey is disturbed by the large quantity of Soviet-made equipment and advisors in Syria, and particularly about SA-5 long-range surface-to-air missiles. [REDACTED]

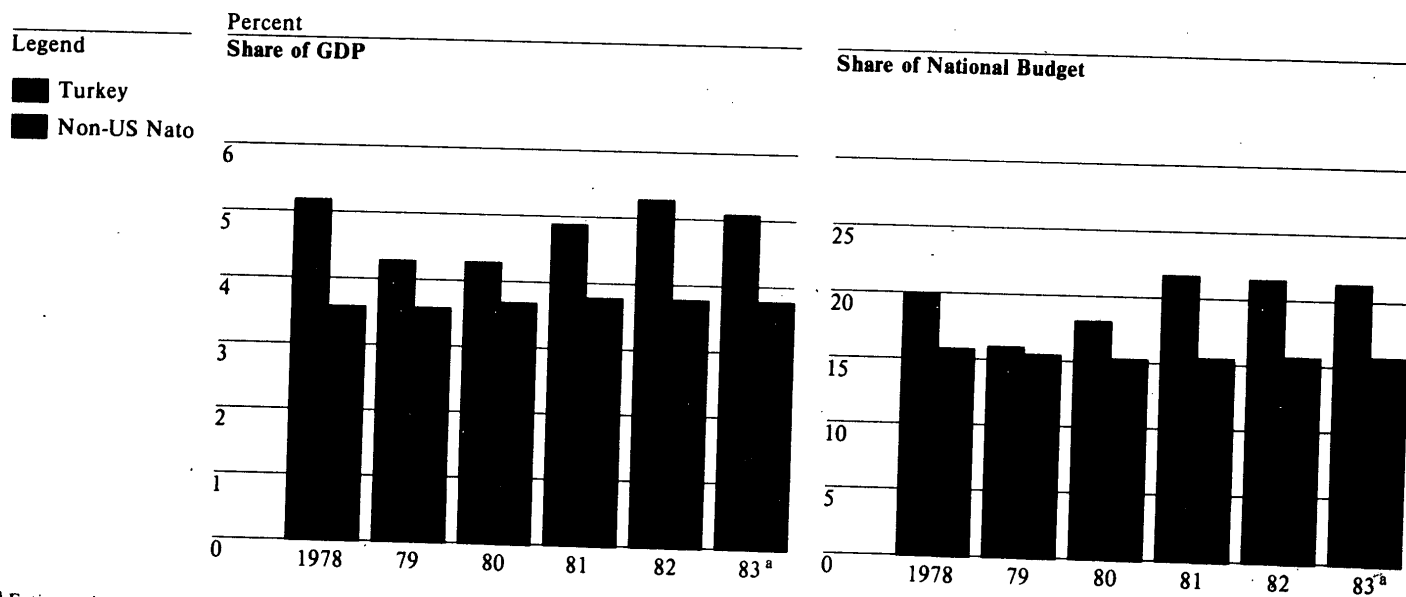
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The Turkish government believes that the Soviets help foment the internal threat from terrorism, which has been contained but not eradicated.

- Martial law still exists in all but 13 of the 67 provinces and the military plays an extensive role in the political process. [REDACTED]

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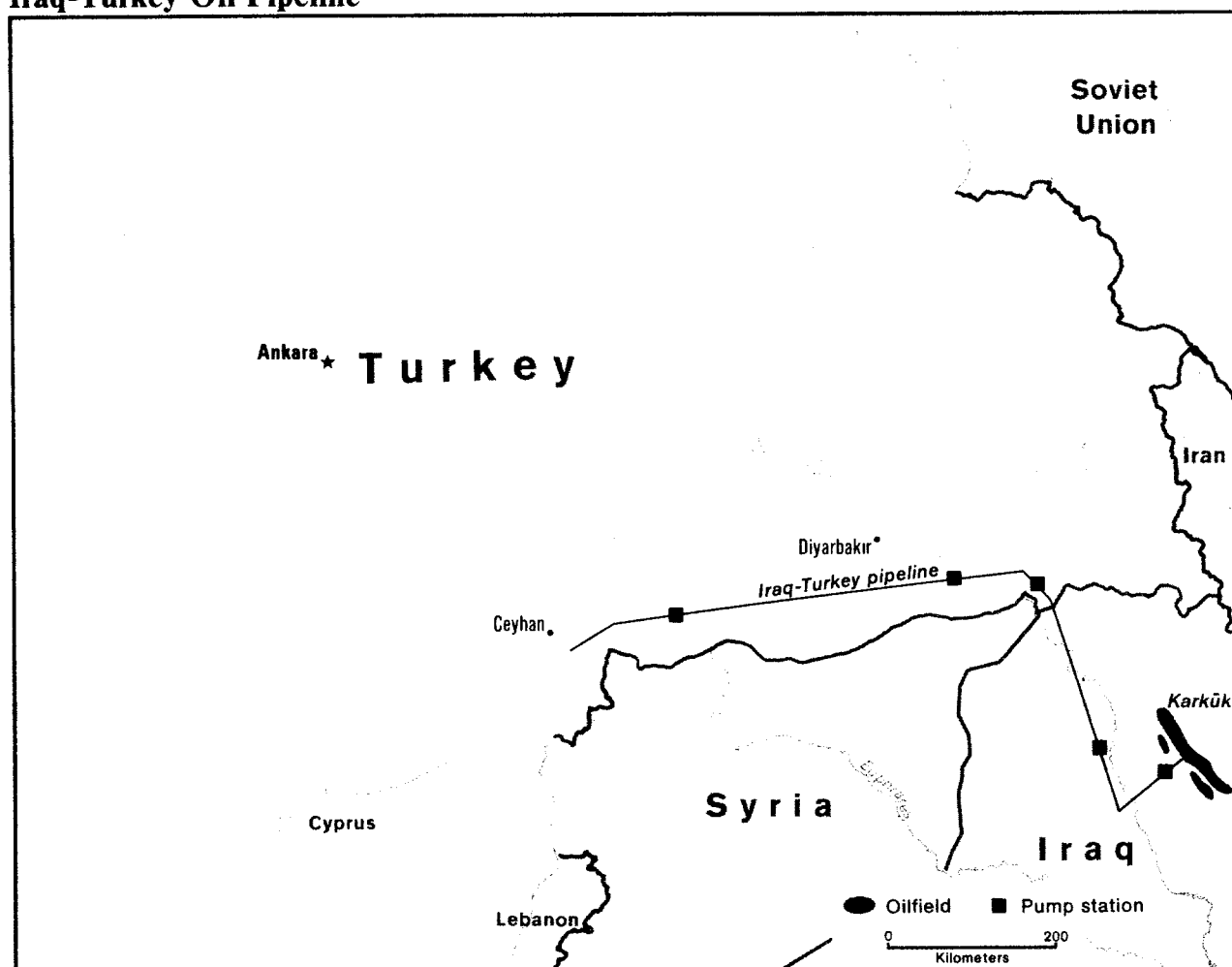
Turkey: Defense Expenditures as a Share of GDP and the National Budget, 1978-83



^a Estimated.

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Iraq-Turkey Oil Pipeline



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**Major Turkish Modernization Program,
as of May 1984**

Army

Upgrading M-48 tanks to
M48A5 model with assistance
from the United States
and West Germany

Receiving Leopard IA3 tanks
from West Germany

Signed contract for 36 Rapier
surface-to-air missile
systems from Great Britain

Navy

Signed contract for four
new MEKO frigates; two
in Turkey with assistance
from several NATO Allies

Received two used frigates
from West Germany

Currently building German
Type 209 submarines in
Turkey with West German

Air Force

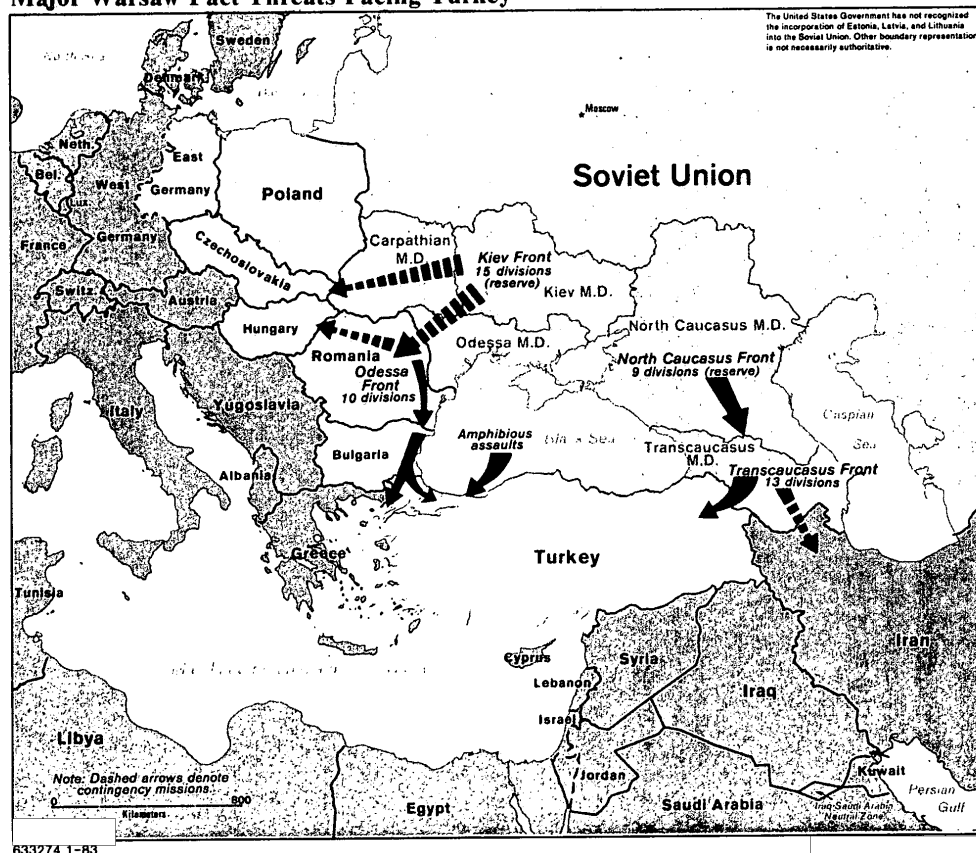
Signed contract for 160
F-16 fighters, purchased
with US assistance

Receiving used F-104s from
various NATO Allies

Will receive 15 used F-4s
from the United States

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Major Warsaw Pact Threats Facing Turkey



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